



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

No. 21

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator of all things, we praise You, the giver of every good and perfect gift. Thank You for Your amazing grace and Your wonderful love. Thank You also for the wonders of nature, for the beauty of the Earth, and for the glory of the skies.

Strengthen our Senators today with Your loving providence. Keep them strong and compassionate for the poor and powerless. Help them to see the unprecedented opportunities they possess to change our world for the good. Give them faith, courage, and goodwill to relate constructively to enemies as well as friends.

Lord, as we enter the Presidents Day weekend, we think about the lives and Presidencies of Lincoln and Washington. We thank You for the wisdom and strength that You gave both of them to govern our Nation through turbulent times. May our hearts say, along with Washington, "Providence has at all times been my only dependence, for all other sources seem to have failed us."

Transform us all by the power of Your grace. We pray in Your mighty name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified on February 2, 2006, the Senator from Colorado, Mr. SALAZAR, having been appointed by the Vice President, will now read Washington's Farewell Address.

Mr. SALAZAR, at the rostrum, read the Farewell Address, as follows:

To the people of the United States:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without strict regard to all the considerations

appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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